

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 5, 11-20 and 22-31 remain in this application. Claims 1, 4, 5, 20, 22 and 23, now the independent claims, and Claim 29, have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention, in terms which distinguish over the art of record. Claims 2, 3, 6-10, 21 and 32-174 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and accordingly, no further mention of issues relating only to those claims will be made. The title has been amended to make it more descriptive, as required in the Office Action.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claim 27 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. That claim has not been so rewritten because, for the reasons given below, its base claim is believed to be allowable.

Claim 29 has been amended to correct the typographical error kindly noted by the Examiner.

Of the claims remaining in this application, Claims 1, 4, 5, 11-13, 15-20 and 22-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,982,507 (Weiser et al.), and Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from that patent.

The present invention, or at least the aspects thereof set out in the respective independent claims, is directed to the provision of remote control apparatus and systems suitable for performing various advanced functions in complex network environments.

More specifically, independent Claim 1 is directed to a remote control apparatus, which has means for performing the following functions:

- (I) requesting a device to be controlled for an operation procedure for the device,
- (ii) receiving the operation procedure for the device to be controlled from that device, and
- (iii) transmitting an operation command to the device based on the received operation procedure.

*Weiser* relates to a system in which message routing can be performed to a headerless apparatus, such as scanners and copiers. Applicants submit, however, that nothing has been found, or pointed out, in that patent that would teach or suggest receiving an operation procedure for a device to be controlled, from that device, much less any means for doing so, as recited in Claim 1. That claim is accordingly believed to be clearly allowable over *Weiser*.

Independent Claim 4 is directed to a remote control apparatus that:

- (I) stores respective operation procedures in consonance with identifiers of a plurality of devices,
- (ii) requests an identifier of device to be controlled, from that device,
- (iii) receives data representing the identifier from the device to be controlled,
- (iv) selects an operation procedure in consonance with the identifier represented by the received data from among the stored operation procedures, and
- (v) transmits an operation command to the device based on the selected operation procedure.

Nothing has been found or pointed out in *Weiser*, however, that would teach or suggest selecting an operation procedure, from among various stored operation procedures, in consonance with an identifier represented by received data, much less means for doing so, as recited in Claim 4, and that claim accordingly is believed to be clearly allowable over that patent.

Independent Claim 5 is similar to Claim 4, and is believed to be allowable over *Weiser* for similar reasons.

Independent Claim 20 is directed to a remote control system that:

- (I) identifies a device to be controlled by a remote control apparatus,
- (ii) transmits to the remote control apparatus an operation procedure for a device that is identified, and
- (iii) transmits an operating command to the device based on the operation procedure that is received.

Again, nothing has been found or pointed out in *Weiser* that would teach or suggest identifying a device to be controlled and transmitting to a remote control apparatus an operation procedure for a device that is identified, much less means for doing so, as recited in Claim 20. That claim is therefore deemed also to be allowable over *Weiser*.

Independent Claim 22 is directed to a remote control system that includes a remote control apparatus, and that:

- (I) identifies a device to be controlled by the remote control apparatus,
- (ii) transmits to the remote control apparatus data representing an identifier of the device that is identified,

(iii) selects an operation procedure in consonance with the identifier represented by the received data from among a plurality of stored operation procedures, and

(iv) transmits an operation command to the device based on the selected operation procedure.

Again, nothing has been found or pointed out in *Weiser* that would teach or suggest these functions, much less any means for doing so, as recited in Claim 22. That claim is therefore considered also to be allowable over *Weiser*.

Independent Claim 23 is similar to Claim 22, and is deemed allowable over *Weiser* for the same reasons.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 29,296

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3801  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200  
NY\_MAIN 339902 v1

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO SPECIFICATION

The title has been amended as follows:

--REMOTE CONTROL APPARATUS AND [A] SYSTEM [THEREFOR] IN  
WHICH IDENTIFICATION OR CONTROL INFORMATION IS OBTAINED FROM A  
DEVICE TO BE CONTROLLED--.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A remote control apparatus comprising:

request means for requesting, from a device to be controlled, an operation  
procedure for that device;

reception means for receiving [information concerning a] the operation  
procedure from the device to be controlled;

[validation means for validating operation procedures for said device to be  
controlled;] and

transmission [control] means for transmitting an operation command to  
[said] the device based an [said] the received operation [procedures] procedure [that are  
validated].

4. (Amended) A remote control apparatus [according to claim 1, further]  
comprising:

storage means for storing respective operation procedures in consonance with [a device to be controlled] identifiers of a plurality of devices;

inquiry means for requesting an identifier of the device to be controlled from that device;

reception means for receiving data representing the identifier from the device to be controlled;

selection means for selecting an operation procedure in consonance with the identifier represented by the received data from among the operation procedures stored in said storage means; and

transmission means for transmitting an operation command to the device based on the selected operation procedure

[wherein said information received by said reception means constitutes identification means for a device to be controlled and said validation means validates said operation procedures stored in consonance with said identification information for said device].

5. (Amended) A remote control apparatus [according to claim 1, further] comprising:

storage means for storing respective operation procedures in consonance with [a device to be controlled] a plurality of types of devices;

inquiry means for inquiring as to a type of a device to be controlled, from that device;

reception means for receiving data representing the type from the device to be controlled;

selection means for selecting an operation procedure in consonance with the type represented by the received data from among the operation procedures stored in said storage means; and

transmission means for transmitting an operation command to the device based on the selected operation procedure

[wherein said information received by said reception means constitutes identification means for a device to be controlled and said validation means validates said operation procedures stored in consonance with said identification information for aid device].

20. (Amended) A remote control system comprising:

identification means for identifying a device to be controlled by a remote control apparatus; and

transmission control means for transmitting to [said] the remote control apparatus [information concerning] an operation procedure for a device that is identified,

wherein said remote control apparatus transmits an operating command to said device [in accordance with operating procedures] based on [said information] the operation procedure that is received.

22. (Amended) A remote control system [according to claim 20,] including a remote control apparatus, said system comprising:

identification means for identifying a device to be controlled by said remote control apparatus; and

transmission control means for transmitting to said remote control apparatus data representing an identifier of the device that is identified,

wherein [said information concerning said device that is to be controlled consists of identification information, and wherein] said remote control apparatus [employs said operating procedures in consonance with said device stored in said remote control apparatus] comprises:

storage means for storing respective operation procedures in consonance with identifiers of a plurality of devices,

selection means for selecting an operation procedure consonance with the identifier represented by the received data from among the operation procedures stored in said storage means; and

transmission means for transmitting an operation command to the device based on the selected operation procedure.

23. (Amended) A remote control system [according to claim 20,] including a remote control apparatus, said system comprising:

identification means for identifying a type of device to be controlled by said remote control apparatus; and

transmission control means for transmitting to said remote control apparatus data representing a type of the device that is identified,

wherein [said information concerning said device that is to be controlled concerns a type of devices that is to be controlled, and wherein] said remote control apparatus [employs said operating procedures in consonance with said device type stored in said remote control apparatus] comprises:

storage means for storing respective operation procedures in consonance with a plurality of types of devices,

selection means for selecting an operation procedure in consonance with the type represented by the received data from among the operation procedures stored in said storage means, and

transmission means for transmitting an operation command to the device based on the selected operation procedure.

29. (Amended) A remote control system according to claim 28, where said device[s] that is to be controlled is operated by referring to said history of said operations performed by said device that is stored in said storage means.